Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

--8. (Amended) The primer according [any of] claim 5, wherein the base sequence of a nucleic acid fragment for said primer [according to claim 5] is a modified base sequence subjected to a mutation, [such as] comprising partial deletion of the base sequence, addition of an extra base or base sequence, or substitution of a base or partial sequence in the base sequence with other base or base sequence, or combination thereof, based on a base sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 to 9 or complementary base sequence thereof.

9. (Amended) The primer according to claim 7, wherein the base sequence of said at least one of said two kinds of nucleic acid fragments [a nucleic acid fragment for primer according to claim 5] is a modified base sequence subjected to a mutation, [such as] comprising partial deletion of the base sequence, addition of an extra base or base sequence, or substitution of a base or partial sequence in the base sequence

with other base or base sequence, or combination thereof, based on a base sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 to 9 or complementary base sequence thereof.

10. (Amended) The primer [or probe] according to claim 5, wherein said primer [or probe] comprises at least one kind of nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional modification, and the additional modification in one kind of said nucleic acid fragment is introduction of a marker or moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier into a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

11. (Amended) The [primer or] probe according to claim 6, wherein said [primer or ] probe comprises at least one kind of nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional modification, and the additional modification in one kind of said nucleic acid fragment is introduction of a marker or moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier into a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

12. (Amended) The primer [or probe] according to claim 7, wherein said primer [or probe] comprises at least one

kind of nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional modification, and the additional modification in one kind of said nucleic acid fragment is introduction of a marker or moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier into a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

13. (Amended) The primer [or probe] according to claim 8, wherein said primer [or probe] comprises at least one kind of nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional modification, and the additional modification in one kind of said nucleic acid fragment is introduction of a marker or moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier into a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

14. (Amended) The primer [or probe] according to claim 5, wherein a marker or a moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier to be introduced into a molecule as an additional modification is any of biotin residue, 2,4-dinitrophenyl group, and digoxigenin residue.

15. (Amended) The [primer or] probe according to claim 6, wherein a marker or a moiety capable of binding to a

solid-phase carrier to be introduced into a molecule as an additional modification is any of biotin residue, 2,4-dinitrophenyl group, and digoxigenin residue.

16. (Amended) The primer [or probe] according to [any of] claim 7 [or 8], wherein a marker or a moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier to be introduced into a molecule as an additional modification is any of biotin residue, 2,4-dinitrophenyl group, and digoxigenin residue.

17. (Amended) The primer [or probe] according to claim 9, wherein a marker or a moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier to be introduced into a molecule as an additional modification is any of biotin residue, 2,4-dinitrophenyl group, and digoxigenin residue.

18. (Amended) The primer [or probe] according to [any one of claims] claim 10 [to 13], wherein a marker or a moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier to be introduced into a molecule as an additional modification is any of biotin residue, 2,4-dinitrophenyl group, and digoxigenin residue.

23. (Amended) The method of detecting a polyhydroxyalkanoate synthesizing microorganism according to [any of] claim [21 or] 22, wherein said method uses the primer comprising a combination of two kinds of nucleic acid fragments [according to claim 7].

24. (Amended) The method of detecting a polyhydroxyalkanoate synthesizing microorganism according to [any of] claim 21 [or 22], wherein said elongation reaction of a primer in said adding step (3) is performed by a polymerase chain reaction.

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